

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated May 19, 2009. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the Application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7-11 and 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,675,599 to Abe ("Abe"). Claims 6 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Abe in view of Wong in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,815,477 to Kimura ("Kimura"). These rejections of the claims are respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20 are allowable over Abe alone and in view of Kimura, for at least the following reasons.

Abe shows an optical transmission device and states that by (emphasis added) "applying a fixed-bias electric current which is not more than the electric threshold current value of the laser diode to the laser diode, the turn-on delay time of the laser diode can be minimized, and the extinction level can be lowered by it". (See, Abe, abstract.) While the Office Action on page 3 interprets

Abe as showing a pre-bias signal that varies in different forms, (e.g., see, claims 2 and 8 and claims 3 and 9), it is respectfully submitted that reliance on Abe in the cited sections or any sections for that matter is misplaced.

As is clear to a person of ordinary skill in the art from a simple inspection of the circuits shown by Abe such as FIGs. 1 (cited in the Office Action), 3 and 5, Abe shows a fixed-bias circuit (e.g., see, fixed-bias circuit 4 as shown in Abe, FIG. 1).

While the Office Action interprets "electric input signal (1)" as for example, showing that "the pre-bias signal (1) is a stepped value" (see, Office Action, page 3), it is respectfully submitted that Abe is clear that the electrical signal 1 is not a pre-bias signal but in fact is the "electric input signal 1 [that] is supplied to a laser diode 3 via a current switch 2." (See, Abe, Col. 2, lines 41-42 cited in the Office Action.) Abe is further clear that a (emphasis added) "fixed-bias electric current I_b which is not more than the electric threshold current value I_{th} of the laser diode is applied to the laser diode 3 by a bias circuit 4." (See, Abe, Col. 2, lines 42-44.)

It is respectfully submitted that the method of claim 1 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Abe alone and in

view of Kimura. For example, Abe alone and in view of Kimura does not teach, disclose or suggest, a method that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis added) "supplying, to the diode laser device as the control signal and at a predetermined turn-on time, a write bias signal having a value which exceeds the threshold value, wherein the threshold value is a lasing threshold for the diode laser device, and supplying to the diode laser device, as the control signal and at a predefined time before the predetermined turn-on time, a pre-bias signal, which has a magnitude that varies, is less than the threshold value and extends for a time period to immediately before the write bias signal" as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in each of claims 7 and 13.

As is clear from Abe, Abe shows a pre-bias signal that is fixed and does not vary. Kimura is introduced for allegedly showing elements of the dependent claims and as such, does nothing to cure the deficiencies in Abe.

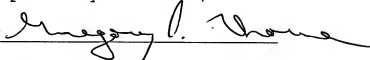
Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 7 and 13 are allowable over Abe alone and in view of Kimura, and notice to this effect is earnestly

solicited. Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-20 respectively depend from one of claims 1, 7 and 13 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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